

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 03356 012233Z

65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SSC-01

(ISO) W

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R 012120Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7208

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 3356

3.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJ: MILITARY CHANGES ANNOUNCED

1. PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED JUNE 30 THAT EFFECTIVE

JULY 1 BRIGADIER GENERAL ROMEO LUCAS GARCIA WOULD REPLACE BRIGADIER
GENERAL FAUSTO RAVID RUBIO AS MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.

2. GENERAL RUBIO WILL BECOME "PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT," A POST OF UNSPECIFIED DUTIES THAT HAS BEEN USED IN
THE PAST FOR EX-DEFENSE MINISTER WHOM PRESIDENT WISHED RETAIN AS A
REPRESENTATIVE AND ADVISER.

3. REPLACING GENERAL LUCAS AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED
FORCES WILL BE GENERAL OTTO SPIEGLER NORIEGA. NO REPLACEMENT
YET NAMED FOR SPIEGLER AS CO OF CUARTEL GENERAL BRIGADE.

4. COMMENT: PRESIDENT LAUGERUD CAN GIVE GENERAL RUBIO A GREAT
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PAGE 02 GUATEM 03356 012233Z

DEAL OF PUBLIC EXPOSURE IN HIS NEW JOB -- OR NONE AT ALL. AS

RUBIO IS BELIEVED TO HARBOR PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS, THE USE
LAUGERUD MAKES OF RUBIO SHOULD GIVE SOME CLUE AS TO HOW
LAUGERUD FEELS ABOUT A RUBIO CANDIDACY IN 1978. CHOICE OF
LUCAS TO REPLACE RUBIO WAS LONG ANTICIPATED BY PUBLIC AND MILITARY
AND IS BEING TAKEN AS ROUTINE. END COMMENT.
MELOY

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NNN

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